



Presenting Your DeKalb County Masonic Association Newsletter

<http://dcma.morelight.org>

April 2007 Masters 295

THE DCMA CRIER

Visiting Masters 295

Greetings, Brethren! Our April 17 program will be "Community Partnerships", presented by WBro. Dennis E. Gueth, 8th District Director of Leadership Development. This presentation should give each of us some ideas about how our lodges can partner with local community groups. Local activities like this have long been a part of Masonic tradition, and can often lead to new friendships... and maybe even a petition or two.



Where Next?

On Thursday, 24 May, we will be at Lithonia 84, and we hope you'll not only join us there, but bring a guest as well. The presenter will be Rev. Kenneth Hughs of Macedinia Baptist Church in Lithonia. If you've never been to this beautiful, historic temple, you owe it to yourself to make the trip. You'll be glad that you did.

Programs and Presenters

We want to continue with a 15-20 minute educational or entertainment program at each meeting this year. Please let us know what you think about the programs we're putting on. We are doing it for YOU, but we have to know what YOU want! If you know of a program and/or presenter that you think would be a good to have here at the DCMA, or just a good program for your own meeting, *please let us know!*

DCMA Info

President: Bobby Jones, Clarkston 492
dcma.pres@morelight.org or 404-966-8050
1st VP: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
dcma.1vp@morelight.org or 770-482-3338
2nd VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444
dcma.2vp@morelight.org or 404-310-8541
Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
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Correction!

Grant Park 603 will be hosting us on 14 June.

Spotlight: Traveling Trophies

The Clarkston Traveling Gavel - Sponsored by Clarkston 492, this gavel is claimed by visiting the current holding lodge with at least 4 members of your lodge, one of whom must be a Warden, Master, or Past Master. More details posted at <http://clarkston492.com>

The 5th District Traveling Gavel - Started by Fulton 216, this gavel is claimed by visiting the 5th District Convention from another District; it is taken from the current holding lodge by visitors from a lodge outside of that lodge's district with 4 or more members present. Returned annually. More details posted at <http://5dist.morelight.org>

List of Georgia Traveling Trophies, and known locations *at press time:*

- 5th District Gavel Tucker 42
- 7th District Gavel East Point 288
- Bowdon Lodge Gavel Sand Hill 350
- Carroll Lodge Gavel Carroll 69
- Clarkston Lodge Gavel Tucker 42
- Jonesboro Lodge Gavel Jonesboro 87
- Rex Lodge Gavel Montgomery 31
- Sponsor? Traveling Hat Griffin 413

If you have any information on any Georgia Traveling Trophies, *please let us know!*

Other Local Awards:

5th District Banner - This banner is claimed by the member lodge attending the annual 5th District Convention with the most members present. Returned annually. 2006-2007 Winner: East Point 288.

5th District Lodge of the Year Trophy - Submissions are made each year, and district leadership selects the winner. Returned annually, and replaced with a recognition plaque. 2006-2007 Winner: Capitol View 640.

DCMA Banner and Gavel - The banner is claimed by the member lodge attending a DCMA meeting with the most people (members, family, guests, etc.) present; the gavel is for the member lodge with the second most present. Returned monthly.

Why not grab some brethren and visit another lodge this month?

You might even take home a trophy!

DeKalb County Masonic Association Newsletter for April, 2007

Masonic Terms: The Cable-Tow

The following is adapted from a paper called "The Cable", by Bros. Garth Cochran & Barry Maynard of the GL of Alberta, Canada.

Our Freemasonry started in Britain, and it's important to bear that in mind when we are researching questions such as this. In the British Navy, the standard length of a cable is one hundred fathoms, or six hundred feet. That was chosen because it is one-tenth of a nautical mile. But when a tug is towing a ship, they are almost always more than six hundred feet apart. That's because a cable and a cable-tow aren't the same thing. The cable is a rope of a specific length. When we make up a tow, we might tie or "bend" several cables together. The number of cables needed to make up a tow depend on several factors.

First, how heavy is the tow? A light object isn't hard to move, but a heavy one is. A short rope has very little give in it, very little stretch. If you attach it to a light object, it will pull it. But if you tie it to something heavy it will break before it starts to move the tow through the water. A longer rope has more stretch and give in it. So too, with the cable-tow. The tug's force is applied more slowly, giving enough time to overcome the inertia of the disabled ship and get it moving before the cable snaps.

Second, what is the condition of the sea? If the sea is calm, a shorter cable-tow is enough. Once you get the tow moving, it will follow smoothly. However, if the sea is rough, then a longer cable is needed. The tow may be trying to climb the back of one wave while the tug is surging down the front of another. If the tow is too short, then there isn't enough give in it to allow the tug and the tow to move apart. The rope will snap.

The point is that the terms we use in Masonry today have their basis in real terms; this gives them both a strength and sense of purpose.

The cable-tow, which connects the tug to the barge at sea, is not of a specific length. In fact, the amount of cable let out by the tug as it attempts to direct the course and speed of the barge depends on the condition of the sea and the burden of the tow. The heavier the burden and the rougher the sea, the longer the cable-tow that is necessary. Strange as it may seem, in stormy seas, a tug actually gives more secure guidance and direction with a longer cable-tow.

So too, with our Masonic cable-tow: that bond which binds a Brother to his Lodge and to the Craft. What about the Brother who finds himself encountering stormy seas or who finds the burdens of his responsibilities bear heavily on him? Undue pressure from the Lodge or from his Brothers to attend meetings, participate in degree work or to "be a good Mason" may cause his cable-tow to snap and sever his bond to the craft.

Once the nautical cable-tow is severed, the state of the seas or the poor condition of the disabled ship may make recovery of the tow impossible. The ship is therefore lost while the tug stands by - helpless. So might a brother be lost to the craft - and Masonry would be thus impoverished.

Comin' Atchal

Nearby Events Coming Soon...

- Tue, 3 Apr - Entered Apprentice Conferral**
Clarkston 492, Clarkston
- Tue, 3 Apr - Entered Apprentice Conferral**
Lawrenceville 131, Lawrenceville
- Tue, 3 Apr - Entered Apprentice Conferral**
East Point 288, Peachtree City
- Wed, 4 Apr - DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club**
Clarkston 492, Clarkston (2pm)
- Wed, 4 Apr - Master Mason Conferral**
Fulton 216, Atlanta
- Thu, 5 Apr - Rememb. & Renewal Ceremony**
Valley of Atlanta, A&ASR
- Fri, 6 Apr - Entered Apprentice Conferral**
Fergus 135, Loganville
- Sat, 7 Apr - Pancake Breakfast**
Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain
- Sun, 8 Apr - BBQ Lunch**
Lithonia 84, Lithonia
- Mon, 9 Apr - Entered Apprentice Conferral**
Fort Hawkins 418, Macon
- Tue, 10 Apr - GCMA (Gwinnett Assn.)**
Dacula 433, Dacula
- Tue, 10 Apr - Fellow Craft Conferral**
Mabel 255, Macon
- Tue, 10 Apr - Fellow Craft Conferral**
Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro
- Sat, 14 Apr - 6th Annual Masonic Golf Charity**
Wood Lake Golf Course, Monroe
- Sat, 14 Apr - Master Mason Conferral**
Sandy Springs 124, Sandy Springs
- Sat, 14 Apr - DeMolay (& Sr.) Degrees**
Atlanta Masonic Center
- Tue, 17 Apr - DCMA**
Masters 295, Decatur
- Thu, 19 Apr - Master Mason Conferral**
Rockmart 97, Rockmart
- Sat, 21 Apr - Masonic Golf Charity**
Flint River Golf Course, Albany
- Sat, 21 Apr - Scottish Rite Reunion**
Atlanta Masonic Center
- Wed, 25 Apr - Southside Memorial Association**
Forest Park 399, Forest Park
- Thu, 26 Apr - Fellow Craft Conferral**
Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee
- Sat, 28 Apr - Museum of Aviation Trip**
Fulton 216, Atlanta
- Mon, 30 Apr - Past Masters Club of Chamblee**
Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee

With all this... how can you just stay at home?